

Mississippi Coast Area Local 204

American Postal Workers Union AFL-CIO

PO Box 2666

Gulfport, Mississippi 39505-2666

March 17, 2017

Subject: Docket Number RM-2017-03, Ten Year Rate System Review Comments

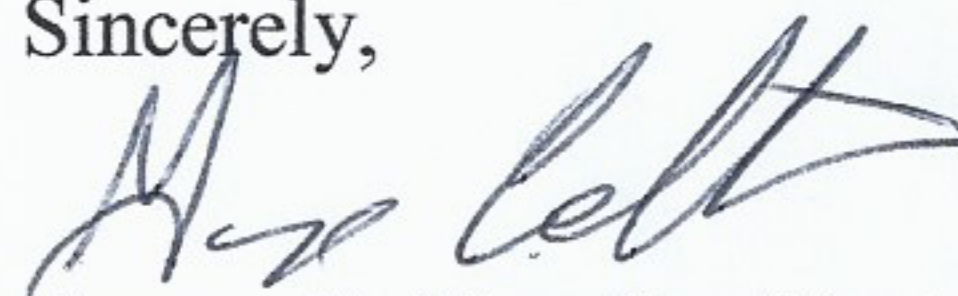
Dear Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf on the Mississippi Coast Area Local 204 to submit comments to the Ten Year Rate System Review. The workers APWU's Mississippi Coast Area Local 204 represent are not only on the front lines of mail processing and retail services, but also community members and mailers living and working on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. We have a unique perspective of understanding the financial challenges the United States Postal Service faces and its obligation to ensure universal service.

The current CPI rate cap has substantially hurt the financial condition of the Postal Service which in turn has led to a reduction in the quality of service it provides including the costs from consolidations, closures and service standard degradations that have affected prompt, reliable, and efficient services. As mail volumes and service continue to decline, the price cap endangers the Postal Service's financial viability.

We use the Postal Service and value its existence. The PRC should eliminate the price cap to ensure that the USPS is able to generate the necessary revenue to remain a viable, thriving, public institution that provides prompt and affordable services. The USPS must have sufficient financial stability to ensure that it can operate in a manner that provides quality service to everyone, regardless of geographical area. Without a flexible system that allows the Postal Service to respond to demand, the economy, and costs, the Postal Service will be unable to deliver stable postal services.

Sincerely,



George Collins, President
Mississippi Coast Area Local 204